



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/531,477	04/15/2005	Piotr Kula	122041	6504
25944	7590	04/24/2008	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC			ZHU, WEIPING	
P.O. BOX 320850				
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320-4850			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1793	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			04/24/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Interview Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/531,477	KULA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	WEIPING ZHU	1793	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) WEIPING ZHU.

(3) Jerry Tillman.

(2) Piotr Kula.

(4) Christopher W. Brown.

Date of Interview: 15 April 2008.

Type: a) Telephonic b) Video Conference  
c) Personal [copy given to: 1) applicant 2) applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) Yes e) No.

If Yes, brief description: \_\_\_\_\_.

Claim(s) discussed: 2-6.

Identification of prior art discussed: Kubota (US 5,702,540) and Stickels et al. (US 4,191,Nakamura ('599)).

Agreement with respect to the claims f) was reached. g) was not reached. h) N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: The applicant argues that Kubota ('540) does not disclose introducing an active nitrogen carrier only when the temperature is between 400 degrees Centigrade and the carburizing temperature; stopping the nitrogen carrier introduction when the carburizing temperature is reached and thereafter introducing only the carbon carrier. The examiner invites the applicant to provide convincible data to establish the criticality of the claimed temperature range.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

/Weiping Zhu/  
Examiner, Art Unit 1793

Examiner's signature, if required

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.